

What is claimed is:

1. An electrical test probe comprising:

2 a probe body;

a probe tip mechanically coupled to said probe body, wherein said probe tip is

4 capable of being electrically coupled to a test instrument; and

a control device mechanically coupled to said probe body, wherein said control

6 device is capable of being electrically coupled to said test instrument.

2. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 further comprising;

2 a finger guard mechanically coupled to said probe body.

3. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;

2 said control device is a push button switch.

4. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;

2 said control device is a rotary switch.

5. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;

2 said control device is a trackball.

6. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;

2 said control device is a joystick.

7. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;

2 said control device includes an optoelectronic motion encoder.

8. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
2 a mode display mechanically coupled to said probe body and electrically coupled
 to said test instrument visually representing a configuration of said test
4 instrument.

9. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 8 wherein;
2 said mode display is a liquid crystal display device.

10. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 8 wherein;
2 said mode display is a light emitting diode display device.

11. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 8 wherein;
2 said mode display is one or more light emitting diodes.

12. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 8 wherein;
2 said mode display is an electroluminescent display device.

13. An electrical test probe comprising:
2 a probe body;
 a probe tip mechanically coupled to said probe body;
4 a control device mechanically coupled to said probe body; and

a communication port mechanically coupled to said probe body, and electrically
coupled to said control device and said probe tip, wherein said communication
port is capable of being electrically coupled to an electrical test instrument.

14. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 13 further comprising;
a finger guard mechanically coupled to said probe body.

15. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 13 wherein;
said control device is a push button switch.

16. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 13 wherein;
said control device is a rotary switch.

17. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 13 wherein;
said control device is a trackball.

18. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 13 wherein;
said control device is a joystick.

19. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 13 wherein;
said control device includes an optoelectronic motion encoder.

20. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 13 further comprising:

2 a mode display mechanically coupled to said probe body and electrically coupled
to said test instrument visually representing a configuration of said test
4 instrument.

21. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 20 wherein;
2 said mode display is a liquid crystal display device.

22. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 20 wherein;
2 said mode display is a light emitting diode display device.

23. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 20 wherein;
2 said mode display is one or more light emitting diodes.

24. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 20 wherein;
2 said mode display is an electroluminescent display device.

25. An electrical test probe comprising:
2 a probe body;
a probe tip mechanically coupled to said probe body;
4 a cable electrically coupled to said probe tip, mechanically coupled to said probe
body, and electrically and mechanically coupled to an electrical test
6 instrument; and
a control device mechanically coupled to said probe body and electrically coupled
8 to said cable, wherein said control device, when activated, activates a function
of said test instrument.

26. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25, wherein said function of said test
instrument includes storing test data.

27. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25, wherein said function of said test
instrument includes printing test data.

28. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25 further comprising;
a finger guard mechanically coupled to said probe body.

29. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25 wherein;
said control device is a push button switch.

30. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25 wherein;
said control device is a rotary switch.

31. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25 wherein;
said control device is a trackball.

32. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25 wherein;
said control device is a joystick.

33. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25 wherein;
said control device includes an optoelectronic motion encoder.

34. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25 further comprising:
a mode display mechanically coupled to said probe body and electrically coupled
to said test instrument visually representing a configuration of said test
instrument.
35. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 32 wherein;
said mode display is a liquid crystal display device.
36. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 32 wherein;
said mode display is a light emitting diode display device.
37. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 32 wherein;
said mode display is one or more light emitting diodes.
38. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 32 wherein;
said mode display is an electroluminescent display device.